☞To the Citizens of Lancaster and York Counties, residing near the Susquehanna:

The undersigned having been appointed a Committee to define the Boundaries of the projected New County, and Address the Citizens residing within those boundaries on the subject, respectfully submit the following: All the Territory for which, in our opinion the petitioners ought to pray, is embraced within the following limits:

Commencing at a point on the west side of the Susquehanna River, opposite the mouth of the Conewago creek, thence across said River and along the north western boundary of Lancaster county to the head waters of Little Chiques creek; thence down said creek along the eastern boundary of Mount Joy township, about one mile to the road from Herr's; thence through Rapho township, along said road, by Masterson's, Brubaker's Mill, Beidler's, and the Presbyterian Church, to Naumun's branch of Metz's run; thence down said run to the Big Chiques creek; thence down said creek to the eastern boundary of West Hempfield township; thence along said boundary to the Columbia turnpike; thence through Manor township along the west branch of the Little Conestogo to its junction with that creek; thence by a straight line bearing S. 56 deg. E. through Conestogo township, crossing the Piqua near Shenk's Mill and through Martic township, to the confluence of Millers and Byers' runs; thence along the eastern branch of Byers' run to the road from Lancaster to the Buck tavern; thence by said road to the head waters of Conowingo creek, near said Buck tavern; thence along said stream through Drumore and Little Britain townships to the Maryland line; thence along said line to the western boundary of Fawn township in York county; thence along the waters dividing Hopewell and Windsor from Fawn and Chanceford towoships to Diehl's mill, in Windsor township; thence through Windsor by a straight line to Austin's mill; thence by the dividing line of Windsor and Lower Windsor townships, and the south western boundary of Hellam township to the Codorus creek; thence down said stream and up the west side of the Susquehanna to the place of beginning.

Within these boundaries are the towns, Columbia, Marietta, Bainbridge, Maytown, Mt. Joy, Springville, Elizabethtown, Falmouth, Wrightsville, Safe-Harbor, Washington and Mt. Pleasant; and the Townships Coney, East and West Donegal, Mt. Joy, W. Hempfield, Peach Bottom, Fawn, Lower Chanceford, Chanceford, L. Windsor and Hellam; and parts of the Townships of Rapho, Manor, Conestoga, Drumore, Little Britain and Upper Windsor, containing a territory of more than 500 square miles, and a population of 32,000 inhabitants. The greater part of this population (25,000) would be taken from Lancaster county—a county containing 85,000 inhabitants, 9,000 more than the State of Delaware, white and black, all counted contains, yet Delaware, for the convenience of her citizens, is divided into *three* counties, has a Governor and Legislature of her own, and sends two U. S. Senators to Congress. The balance of the population (7000) would be taken from York county, which contains 47,000 inhabitants. Owing to the redundant population of these counties, particularly Lancaster, legal transactions in the Courts of justice are felt by all concerned in them, either as parties or witnesses, to be exceedingly expensive and vexatious. To the citizens of the projected New County, such transactions are felt to be peculiarly oppressive, as from their location on the banks of the river, a number of the towns are great Marts for lumber, coal, iron, flour, and other products, and in consequence of the large amount of business, litigations are very frequent amongst them, so much so that, it is believed, more than one third of the business at the Lancaster and York courts, is from within the boundaries of the contemplated new county.

Again, the detention in our Courts of Justice, of which we complain, is felt to be an evil of increasing magnitude, for from our natural and acquired advantages, the population within our boundaries is destined rapidly to increase. The inexhaustible beds of iron ore, of a most superior quality, and the immense water power, created by the dams in the Susquehanna, constructed by the Tide Water Canal Company, cannot fail, at an early day, to make the New County, if erected, one of the greatest manufacturing counties in the State, and consequently one of the most populous. Indeed as a site for the National Foundry, it is believed, no place in the Union, can present stronger claims than Columbia. The committee appointed at the last session of Congress to experiment and test the relative quality of iron manufactured in the different States of the Union, will report very soon, it is understood that iron manufactured in Juniata county, from the ore beds near Columbia, is of a quality superior to any yet discovered in the United States. This important fact, taken in connection with the immense water power, alluded to above, and the great facilities for forwarding Ordnance, by rail roads and canals, diverging in every direction, and the unsurpassed fertility of the surrounding country, and consequent cheapness and abundance of produce, points to Columbia as an unrivalled location.

But, independantly of this prospective advantage, the numerous Furnaces, Forges, Foundries, Grist-Mills, Oil-Mills, Saw-Mills, Woollen Factories, &c. in successful operation would, even now, entitle the new county, if erected, to rank high as a manufacturing county, while as regards population, it would only be exceeded by fifteen out of the fifty-seven counties in the state. For proof of its superiority in this respect, the committee briefly refer to the history of a few counties—Delaware county which is 16 miles in length, and 11 in breadth, contained in 1840, fifty-one years after its erection, less than 20,000 inhabitants; Juniata county, which is 40 miles in length, and 9 in breadth, contained in 1840, but 11,000 inhabitants; Caobria county in 1840, contained about 11,000 also; Pike, Potter and McKean united, contained in 1840, but 10,178 inhabitants, three thousand less than are contained within a circle extending five miles around the borough of Columbia, while Elk, the county erected during the last session of the Legislature, contains less population than the borough of Columbia alone.

From the above remarks it will be perceived that, if the claims upon which other counties have been erected, are any criteria to judge from, then may it confidently be expected that, when our claims shall have been laid before an enlightened and intelligent Legislature, they will not hesitate to grant us a new county. The committee can scarcely conceive of any well grounded opposition that can be brought to bear against it, particularly within the prescribed limits, so obviously is it the interest of all to yield a cordial co-operation to the measure.

To the Farmer it will create a new and ready market near home for his surplus produce, and enable him to have good roads constructed along the banks of the river, which ought long since to have been done. To the Merchant and Mechanic, it will afford increased facilities for business. To the several towns in the vicinity of the county seat, it will infuse a more lively spirit. Travelling through them will be greatly increased, and consequently merchants, mechanics, tavern-keepers and every other class of citizens residing in them, will be benefitted to a greater or less extent. The citizens residing in the most remote southern sections of the county, while they will be no nearer the county seat, will still be largely benefitted, by the saving of time and expense, occasioned by the promptness and despatch with which legal transactions will be disposed of. In addition to these advantages, the larger portion of the population would be so near that they could conveniently return to their homes every evening, during the time they might necessarily be detained with legal business at the county seat.

So deeply are the citizens of Columbia and vicinity impressed with the importance of having a new county erected, that from the very liberal subscriptions already made, (exceeding twenty thousand dollars,) there is little doubt they will raise a sufficient sum to erect the necessary public buildings, at their own expense, provided Columbia be selected for the county seat. This, to the tax-payers, is an argument that ought to disarm opposition on that score, particularly when they reflect that several Grand Juries in Lancaster county, have recommended the erection of a new Jail, and that unless they be included in the new county, they will soon be heavily taxed for the purpose of adorning Lancaster with a splendid edifice, just as the farmers and tax-payers of York county have been, for the purpose of beautifying York, with a magnificent Granite Court-House.

Conceiving it to be unnecessary to dwell at greater length on a subject that scarcely admits of a division in sentiment, the Committee respectfully conclude, cordially, however, inviting every man residing within the boundaries, to co-operate with them in consummating an enterprize which, if successful, is believed to be fraught with incalculable advantages to many thousand citizens of Pennsylvania.

J. S. CLARKSON,
JOHN F. HOUSTON,
SAMUEL W. MIFFLIN,
SAMUEL SHOCH,
JOS. DETWILER.

Jan. 18, 1842